

In the Claims:

1 (Currently amended). A An isolated DNA selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA encoding a protein ~~consisting of~~ comprising the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO.: 2, ~~and ; and~~
- (b) a DNA comprising the coding region of the ~~base~~ nucleotide sequence described in SEQ ID NO.: 1.

2 (Currently amended). A An isolated DNA encoding an Na⁺/H⁺ antiporter ~~derived from monocotyledoneae obtained from a monocotyledonous plant~~ selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA encoding a protein ~~consisting of~~ comprising the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO.: 2, wherein ~~one or more~~ the number of amino acids that are substituted, deleted, inserted and/or added is 20 or less, and ; and
- (b) a DNA specifically hybridizing under highly stringent conditions to the DNA consisting of the ~~base~~ nucleotide sequence described in SEQ ID NO.: 1, wherein highly stringent conditions comprise washing at 56°C in a wash solution containing 0.1X SSC and 0.1% SDS.

3 (Currently amended). The isolated DNA of claim 2, wherein the ~~monocotyledoneae is a monocotyledonous plant belonging belongs~~ to the *Gramineae* family.

4 (Currently amended). A vector comprising DNA selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA encoding a protein ~~consisting of~~ comprising the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO.: 2, ~~and ; and~~
- (b) a DNA comprising the coding region of the ~~base~~ nucleotide sequence described in SEQ ID NO.: 1.

5 (Currently amended). A vector comprising a DNA encoding an Na⁺/H⁺ antiporter ~~derived from monocotyledoneae~~ obtained from a monocotyledonous plant selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA encoding a protein ~~consisting of~~ comprising the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO.: 2, wherein ~~one or more~~ the number of amino acids that are substituted, deleted, inserted and/or added is 20 or less, and ; and
- (b) a DNA specifically hybridizing under highly stringent conditions to the DNA ~~consisting of~~ comprising the ~~base~~ nucleotide sequence described in SEQ ID NO.: 1, wherein highly stringent conditions comprise washing at 56°C in a wash solution containing 0.1X SSC and 0.1% SDS.

6 (Currently amended). A transformant cell ~~comprising~~ transformed with a DNA selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA encoding a protein ~~consisting of~~ comprising the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO.: 2, ~~and ; and~~
- (b) a DNA comprising the coding region of the ~~base~~ nucleotide sequence described in SEQ ID NO.: 1.

7 (Currently amended). The transformant cell of ~~claim 7~~ claim 6, wherein the cell is a plant cell.

8 (Currently amended). A transformant cell ~~comprising~~ transformed with a DNA encoding an Na⁺/H⁺ antiporter ~~derived from monocotyledoneae~~ obtained from a monocotyledonous plant selected from the group ~~consisting of~~ comprising:

- (a) a DNA encoding a protein consisting of the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO.: 2, wherein ~~one or more~~ the number of amino acids that are substituted, deleted, inserted and/or added is 20 or less, and ; and

(b) a DNA specifically hybridizing under highly stringent conditions to the DNA ~~consisting of~~ comprising the base nucleotide sequence described in SEQ ID NO.: 1, wherein highly stringent conditions comprise washing at 56°C in a wash solution containing 0.1X SSC and 0.1% SDS.

9 (Original). The transformant cell of claim 8, wherein the cell is a plant cell.

10-13 (Withdrawn).

14 (Currently amended). A transformant plant comprising a transformant cell ~~comprising~~ transformed with a DNA selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA encoding a protein ~~consisting of~~ comprising the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO.: 2, ~~and ; and~~
- (b) a DNA comprising the coding region of the base nucleotide sequence described in SEQ ID NO.: 1.

15 (Original). The transformant plant of claim 14, wherein the plant is a monocotyledon.

16 (Original). The transformant plant of claim 15, wherein the plant belongs to the *Gramineae* family.

17 (Original). The transformant plant of claim 16, wherein the plant is rice.

18 (Currently amended). A transformant plant that is the offspring or clone of a transformant plant comprising ~~the~~ a transformant cell ~~comprising~~ transformed with a DNA selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA encoding a protein ~~consisting of~~ comprising the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO.: 2, ~~and ; and~~

(b) a DNA comprising the coding region of the ~~base~~ nucleotide sequence described in SEQ ID NO.: 1
wherein said transformant plant carries said DNA.

19 (Currently amended). A transformant plant comprising a transformant cell ~~comprising transformed with a~~ DNA encoding an Na⁺/H⁺ antiporter ~~derived from monocotyledonae~~ obtained from a monocotyledonous plant selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA encoding a protein consisting of the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO.: 2, wherein ~~one or more~~ the number of amino acids that are substituted, deleted, inserted and/or added is 20 or less, and ; and
- (b) a DNA specifically hybridizing under highly stringent conditions to the DNA ~~consisting of comprising~~ the ~~base~~ nucleotide sequence described in SEQ ID NO.: 1, wherein highly stringent conditions comprise washing at 56°C in a wash solution containing 0.1X SSC and 0.1% SDS.

20 (Original). The transformant plant of claim 19, wherein the plant is a monocotyledon.

21 (Original). The transformant plant of claim 20, wherein the monocotyledon belongs to the *Gramineae* family.

22 (Original). The transformant plant of claim 21, wherein the plant is rice.

23 (Currently amended). A transformant plant that is the offspring or clone of a transformant plant comprising the transformant cell ~~comprising transformed with a~~ DNA encoding an Na⁺/H⁺ antiporter ~~derived from monocotyledonae~~ obtained from a monocotyledonous plant selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA encoding a protein ~~consisting of~~ comprising the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO.: 2, wherein ~~one or more~~ the number of amino acids that are substituted, deleted, inserted and/or added is 20 or less, and ; and
- (b) a DNA specifically hybridizing under highly stringent conditions to the DNA ~~consisting of~~ comprising the base nucleotide sequence described in SEQ ID NO.:1, wherein highly stringent conditions comprise washing at 56°C in a wash solution containing 0.1X SSC and 0.1% SDS, and
- wherein said transformant plant carries said DNA.

24 (Currently amended). A material for the breeding of a transformant plant comprising a transformant cell ~~comprising~~ transformed with a DNA selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA encoding a protein ~~consisting of~~ comprising the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO.: 2, ~~and ; and~~
- (b) a DNA comprising the coding region of the base nucleotide sequence described in SEQ ID NO.: 1.

25 (Currently amended). A material for the breeding of a transformant plant comprising a transformant cell ~~comprising~~ transformed with a DNA encoding an Na⁺/H⁺ antiporter ~~derived from monocotyledonae~~ selected obtained from a monocotyledonous plant selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a DNA encoding a protein consisting of the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO.: 2, wherein ~~one or more~~ the number of amino acids that are substituted, deleted, inserted and/or added is 20 or less, and ; and
- (b) a DNA specifically hybridizing under highly stringent conditions to the DNA ~~consisting of~~ comprising the base nucleotide sequence described in SEQ ID NO.:1, wherein highly stringent conditions comprise washing at 56°C in a wash solution containing 0.1X SSC and 0.1% SDS.

26-27 (Withdrawn).

28 (Currently amended). ~~A~~ An isolated nucleic acid molecule having a chain length of at least 15 nucleotides that hybridizes with is 96% or more homologous to an at least 15-nucleotide fragment of the DNA described in SEQ ID NO.: 1, and which has a chain length of at least 15 nucleotides.